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App. F. IX-1

Previous References. 1940-1 (War) War File No. 120-40
Serial Nos. 11 & 12

Later References.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. Two only

Part B for January 1942

SUBJECT.

Roof Spotters.

Training of Roof Spotter Instructors for Factories.

J.M. Kirkman
21-1-42

W 120-40-11 Col 1325

1088/W

The reply to this communication should be addressed to the Secretary to the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore, by designation and not by name.

No.F.78(9)-40/W.

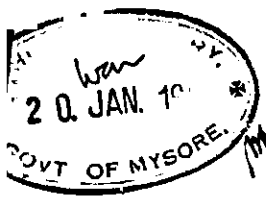
FROM

THE SECRETARY
TO THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Dated Bangalore, the 20th January *1942.*



ROOF SPOTTERS

SIR,

I am directed to refer to my letter No.F.78(4)-40/W, dated the 28th August 1941, and subsequent correspondence on the above subject, and to forward for information a copy of a letter from the Government of India, Civil Defence Department to all Provincial Governments, etc., No.78/256/41-A.R.P., dated the 2nd January 1942.

bd for forwd with a letter to the ISP. I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Issued No 1536/W dy 21-1-42
to the I.G.P.

for SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT.

VN

Letter from the Government of India, Civil Defence Department, to all Provincial Goyernments, etc., No.78/256/41-A.R.P., dated the 2nd January 1942.

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Roof Spotters.

I am directed to refer to Home Department letter No.78/256/41-ARP dated the 13th August 1941, and subsequent correspondence and to say that it has been decided not to proceed with the organisation of a Roof Spotter service in India. In making this decision the Government of India have been guided by the following considerations:-

The matter of recognition of air craft by roof spotters has now become so complicated that there are five very considerable manuals of silhouettes separately for

German
Japanese
Italian
British and
American Aircraft.

All these silhouettes would have to be accurately memorised so that the on coming plane could be recognised in time to be of use.

With the material available to learn initially and subsequently distribute the instruction until it got down at fourth hand to the extremely large number of actual spotters the problem is hardly possible of solution in practice in India.

In England where raids were repeated and repeated again, there was actual practical experience to go on. In India with raids expected to be sporadic and over a very widespread area; and with arrangements being generally made to take cover on the Red Warning, the value of roof spotters intended to distinguish between friendly and enemy planes is very doubtful.

Roof spotters have little chance of distinguishing different types of planes unless they are provided with binoculars and special dark glasses and it will not be possible to provide these articles for a long time to come.

Whilst an organisation of elaborately trained roof spotters is not considered to be feasible in India it will be possible, when the preliminary stage of taking cover on the red warning has

been

been passed, to maintain production by placing roof spotters on duty after the yellow warning wo will be responsible for giving warning of the approach of any aircraft not definitely known to be friendly and the workers would then take cover. Fire roof waters could well undertake this duty. It is open to any particular undertaking to take action on these lines, as soon as it is considered possible to do so.

----:O:-----

21st January 1942.

No 1536/W.
W120-40-12

The Inspector-General of Police in Mysore.

ROOF SPOTTERS.

I am directed to refer to this office letter No.624/W dated the 2nd September 1941, and subsequent correspondence on the above subject, and to enclose for information a copy of *letter from the Government of India, Civil Defence Department to all Provincial Governments, etc., No.78/256/41-A.R.P. dated the 2nd January 1942, received from the Residency in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

For Chief Secretary to Government.

*I am directed to refer to Home Dept. letter No.78/256/41-ARP dated the 13th August 1941, and subsequent correspondence and to say that it has been decided not to proceed with the organisation of a Roof Spotter service in India. In making this decision the Govt. of India have been guided by the following considerations:-

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